

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Assembly Members Bonilla and Ma

February 24, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 29, as introduced, Bonilla. Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

This measure would designate the month of February 2011 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and would encourage all Californians to observe Teen Dating violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that prevent teen dating violence and promote healthy teen relationships in their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence is a serious and growing
2 problem throughout California; and
3 WHEREAS, In a study of California high school pupils, 7
4 percent of pupils in grade 11 indicated that they were victims of
5 teenage dating violence in the past 12 months; and
6 WHEREAS, According to a Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention survey, nearly 10 percent of high school pupils have
8 been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or
9 girlfriend in the 12 months prior to the survey; and
10 WHEREAS, According to Liz Claiborne's 2009 Parent/Teen
11 Dating Violence Poll, approximately one in three adolescent girls

1 in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal
2 abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization
3 rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

4 WHEREAS, Almost 20 percent of teenage girls exposed to
5 physical dating violence did not attend school due to feeling unsafe
6 at school, or on the way to or from school, on one or more
7 occasions during the last 30 days; and

8 WHEREAS, Pupils cannot learn if they do not feel safe. Pupils
9 who experience teen dating violence have lower grades, and 20
10 percent of those pupils have failing grades; and

11 WHEREAS, Violent relationships in adolescence can have
12 serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for
13 substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide,
14 and adult victimization; and

15 WHEREAS, The severity of violence among intimate partners
16 has been shown to be greater in cases where a pattern of violence
17 has been established in adolescence; and

18 WHEREAS, Primary prevention programs are a key part of
19 promoting healthy relationships and preventing teen dating
20 violence, and many successful school and community examples
21 include education, community outreach, and social marketing
22 campaigns that are culturally appropriate; and

23 WHEREAS, Skilled assessment and intervention programs are
24 also necessary for youth who perpetrate teen dating violence and
25 youth who are victimized; and

26 WHEREAS, The establishment of Teen Dating Violence
27 Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools,
28 communities, families, and all youth; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
31 February 2011 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
32 Month, and supports communities to empower teens to develop
33 healthy and violence-free relationships throughout their lives; and
34 be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians,
36 including youths, parents, schools, law enforcement, state and
37 local officials, and other interested groups, to observe Teen Dating
38 Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate
39 programs and activities that prevent teen dating violence and

- 1 promote healthy teen relationships in their communities; and be
- 2 it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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